

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven Highlander on December 8, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 83, replace "82" with --79--.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 3-39, 79-81 and 83-116 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach or suggest providing probes in an annular fashion around a particle or filament. The prior art also does not teach or suggest providing a plurality of different types of probes on a particle or filament for probe-target interaction. It is noted that while claims 4 and independent claim 79 recites "different probes", it is understood from a reading of Applicant's specification that Applicant's use of the term "different probes" refers to different *types* of probes, as the term is often used in the art, and as also confirmed by Applicant's attorney in the interview of December 8, 2008 (see attached summary of the interview.)

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN Y. LAM whose telephone number is (571)272-0822. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 10-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on 571-272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ann Y. Lam/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641